Polit. Pamph. vol 127.

Lord GEORGE SACKVILLE'S VINDICATION of HIMSELF,

IN A LETTER TO

Colonel FITZROY,

ONE OF THE AIDS DE CAMP TO

PRINCE FERDINAND:

WITH

Colonel FITZROY's ANSWER;

AND THE DECLARATION OF

CAPTAIN SMITH,

ONE OF THE AIDS DE CAMP TO LORD GEORGE.

CONTAINING

A Full and Particular ACCOUNT of every Thing that paſſed, relative to LORD GEORGE SACKVILLE's CONDUCT and BEHAVIOUR at the Battle of THORNHAUSEN, on the Firſt of Auguſt, 1759.

The SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:

Printed for R. STEVENS, at *Pope's-Head*, in *Paternoſter-Row*. MDCCLIX.

COPY OF

Lord *George Sackville's*

LETTER

TO

Colonel *Fitzroy.*

Minden, Auguſt 2, 1759.

DEAR SIR,

THE Orders of Yeſterday, you may believe, affect me very ſenſibly. His Serene Highneſs has been pleaſed to judge, condemn, and cenſure me, without hearing

hearing me, in the moſt cruel and unprecedented Manner; as he never asked me a ſingle Queſtion in Explanation of any Thing he might diſapprove: And as he muſt have formed his Opinion upon the Report of others, it was ſtill harder he would not give me an Opportunity of firſt ſpeaking to him upon the Subject: But you know, even in more trifling Matters, that hard Blows are ſometimes unexpectedly given. If any body has a right to ſay that I heſitated in obeying Orders, it is you. I will relate what I know of that, and then appeal to you for the Truth of it.

When

When you brought me Orders to advance with the *Britiſh* Cavalry, I was very near the Village of *Halen*, I think it is called, I mean that Place, which the *Saxons* burnt. I was there advanced by M. *Malhorte*'s Order, and no further, when you came to me. *Ligonier* followed almoſt inſtantly; he ſaid, the whole Cavalry was to advance. I was puzzled what to do, and begged the Favour of you to carry me to the Duke, that I might ask an Explanation of his Orders:—But that no Time might be loſt, I ſent *Smith* with Orders to bring on the *Britiſh* Cavalry, as they had a Wood before they could advance, as you directed;

and

and I reckoned, by the Time I had ſeen His Serene Highneſs, I ſhould find them forming beyond the Wood.——This Proceeding of mine might poſſibly be wrong; but I am ſure the Service could not ſuffer, as no Delay was occaſioned by it.—— The Duke then ordered me to leave ſome Squadrons upon the Right, which I did, and to advance the reſt to ſupport the Infantry. This I declare I did, as faſt as I imagined it was right in Cavalry to march in Line.——I once halted by Lord *Granby* to compleat my forming the whole. Upon his advancing the Left before the Right, I again ſent to him to ſtop:——He ſaid,

as

as the Prince had ordered us to advance, he thought we ſhould move forward.——I then let him proceed at the Rate he liked, and kept my Right up with him as regularly as I could, 'till we got to the Rear of the Infantry and our Batteries.—We both halted together, and afterwards received no Order, 'till that which was brought by Colonel *Web* and the Duke of *Richmond*, to extend in one Line towards the Moraſs.——It was accordingly executed; and then, inſtead of finding the Enemy's Cavalry to charge, as I expected, the Battle was declared to be gained, and we were told to diſmount our Men.

This, I proteſt, is all I know of the Matter, and I was never ſo ſurprized, as when I heard the Prince was diſſatisfied that the Cavalry did not move ſooner up to the Infantry.——It is not my Buſineſs to ask, what the Diſpoſition originally was, or to find Fault with any Thing.———All I inſiſt upon is, that I obeyed the Orders I received, as punctually as I was able; and if it was to do over again, I do not think I would have executed them ten Minutes ſooner than I did, now I know the Ground, and what was expected; but indeed, we were above an Hour too late, if

it

it was the Duke's Intention to have made the Cavalry paſs before our Infantry and Artillery, and charge the Enemy's Line.——I cannot think that was his Meaning, as all the Orders ran to ſuſtain our Infantry: ——And it appears, that both Lord *Granby* and I underſtood we were at our Poſts, by our Halting, when we got to the Rear of our Foot.

I hope I have ſtated impartially the Part of this Tranſaction, that comes within your Knowledge.—— If I have, I muſt beg you would declare it, ſo as I may make Uſe of it in your Abſence: For it is impoſſible to ſit ſilent under ſuch Re-

proach, when I am conſcious of having done the beſt that was in my Power.——For God's Sake, let me ſee you, before you go for *England*.

I am, dear Sir,

Your Faithful

Humble Servant,

GEORGE SACKVILLE.

COPY OF

Colonel *Fitzroy's* LETTER

TO

Lord *George Sackville.*

Minden, Auguſt 3, 1759.

My Lord,

HIS Serene Highneſs, upon ſome Report made to him by the Duke of *Richmond*, of the Situation of the Enemy, ſent Captain *Ligonier* and myſelf with Orders

Orders for the *Britiſh* Cavalry to advance.——His Serene Highneſs was, at this Inſtant, one or two Brigades beyond the *Engliſh* Infantry, towards the Left.——Upon my Arrival on the Right of the Cavalry, I found Captain *Ligonier* with your Lordſhip.—Notwithſtanding, I declared His Serene Highneſs's Orders to you: Upon which you deſired I would not be in an Hurry.—— I made Anſwer, that Galloping had put me out of Breath, which made me ſpeak very quick.——I then repeated the Orders for the *Britiſh* Cavalry to advance towards the Left, and, at the ſame Time, mentioning the Circumſtance, that occaſioned

the

the Orders, added, " That it was " a glorious Opportunity for the " *Engliſh* to diſtinguiſh themſelves, " and that your Lordſhip, by lead- " ing them on, would gain immor- " tal Honour."——

You yet expreſſed your Surprize at the Order, ſaying, it was impoſſible the Duke could mean to break the Line.——My Anſwer was, that I delivered His Serene Highneſs's Orders, Word for Word, as he gave them.——Upon which you asked, which Way the Cavalry was to march, and who was to be their Guide.——I undertook to lead them towards the Left round the little

Wood

Wood on their Left, as they were then drawn up, where they might be little expoſed to the Enemy's Cannonade.

Your Lordſhip continued to think my Orders neither clear nor exactly delivered; and expreſſing your Deſire to ſee Prince *Ferdinand*, ordered me to lead you to him; which Order I was obeying when we met His Serene Highneſs.——— During this Time I did not ſee the Cavalry advance.——Captain *Smith*, one of your Aids de Camp, once or twice made me repeat the Orders I had before delivered to your Lordſhip; and I hope he will do me the

Juſtice

Juſtice to ſay, they were clear and exact.——He went up to you, whilſt we were going to find the Duke, as I imagine, being ſenſible of the Clearneſs of my Orders, and the Neceſſity of their being immediately obeyed.——I heard your Lordſhip give him ſome Orders.——What they were I cannot ſay——but he immediately rode back towards the Cavalry.

Upon my joining the Duke, I repeated to him the Orders I had delivered to you, and appealing to His Serene Highneſs, to know whether they were the ſame he had honoured me with, I had the Satisfaction to

hear him declare, they were very exact.—His Serene Highneſs immediately asked, where the Cavalry was; and upon my making Anſwer, that Lord *George* did not underſtand the Order, but was coming to ſpeak to His Serene Highneſs, he expreſſed his Surprize ſtrongly.

I hope your Lordſhip will think I did nothing but my Duty, as Aid de Camp, in mentioning to His Serene Highneſs my Orders being ſo much queſtioned by your Lordſhip.

I am, &c.

COPY OF THE DECLARATION OF Captain SMITH,

Aid de Camp to Lord GEORGE SACKVILLE.

Minden, Auguſt 3, 1759.

WHAT I have to ſay with Regard to the Orders Colonel *Fitzroy* brought, and to their not being put in Execution, is——I heard Lord *George Sackville* ſay, on his receiving them, as

they differed from thoſe he had juſt before received by Captain *Ligonier*, he would ſpeak to the Prince himſelf, and accordingly put his Horſe in a Gallop to go to him. I immediately went up to Colonel *Fitzroy*, and made him repeat the Orders to me twice.—I thought it ſo clear and poſitive for the *Britiſh* Cavalry only to advance where he ſhould lead, that I took the Liberty to ſay to his Lordſhip, I did think they were ſo; and offered to go and fetch them, while he went to the Prince, that no Time might be loſt. His Anſwer was, he had alſo an Order from the Prince, from Mr. *Ligonier*, for the whole Wing to come away, and he thought it

it impoſſible the Prince could mean that. I replied, that if he would allow me to fetch the *Britiſh*, they were but a Part, and if it was wrong, they could ſoon remedy the Fault.---He ſaid, then do it as faſt as you can.---Accordingly I went, as faſt as my Horſe could go, to General *Moſtyn*.---He knows the reſt. —This is all that paſt, as near as I can recollect.—It was ſpoke as we galloped, and could not be long about, as I have been on the Ground ſince, and do not believe, when his Lordſhip ſent me back, I had above ſix hundred Yards to go to General *Moſtyn*.

J. SMITH